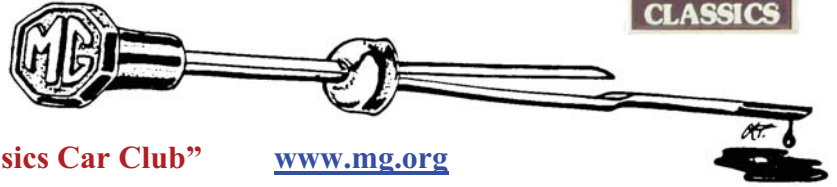


# The Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

[www.mg.org](http://www.mg.org)

Volume XXXVI, Issue 6

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

June 2009

## MARQUE TIME

Thank you Jim and Betty Villers for hosting another enjoyable monthly meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Despite a tornado watch and generally “iffy” weather, we had what looked like a record turnout of members as well as a respectable number of MGs in attendance. The tyre kicking portion of the evening went a bit longer than usual, but only because everyone was enjoying Jim’s garage and beer selection so much! After a full agenda and many spirited discussions, we were treated to Betty’s delicious buffet – definitely worth the wait.

We’ve had much to discuss at recent meetings, thanks to lots of technical topics as well as a full calendar of MG-related activities to report on. It sounds like Wine Tour 2009 was a resounding success. But that’s no surprise when you have Beckey Watson running the show. Tad Carter has been doing a great job publicizing the many car shows that are filling the summer and fall calendar. With our roads so crowded with everyone’s daily driver cars, a car show is sometimes one of the few places to spot an MG. My daily commute takes me from Virginia Beach, through downtown Norfolk and out into Suffolk. It’s mostly interstate driving, which means my attention is usually on all of the other drivers who are trying to hit my car- not a recipe for relaxed motoring, to be sure. But I get a break when I happen to spy the occasional British sports car somewhere in the mix. Last week I spotted the distinctive grille of an early MGB approaching as I merged onto I-664. It was the end of a long day and I was really tired. But seeing that MGB in traffic was just what I needed to unwind and decompress from a long day at work. It’s a good thing it’s spring – that means that Drive Your British Car Week is upon us. Let’s do our part and get our MGs out in force. You’re sure to make someone’s day!

Cheers, Mark Davidoski

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check [www.mg.org](http://www.mg.org) for the latest info!

- May 30 - Jun 7, Drive Your British Car Week  
[www.britishcarweek.org](http://www.britishcarweek.org)
- Jun 2 Tuesday meeting at Bill and Issie Yoshida’s**
- Jun 6 Historic Fredericksburg Region AACA Car Show, Fredericksburg, VA [www.aaca.org/hfrva](http://www.aaca.org/hfrva)
- Jun 7 Original British Car Day 30th Anniversary Meet, Adamstown, MD  
[www.chesapeakechaptermgclub.com](http://www.chesapeakechaptermgclub.com)
- Jun. 6-8, Gold Cup Historic Races, VIR at Virginia International Raceway, [www.virclub.com](http://www.virclub.com)
- Jun. 12 Dipstick Deadline**
- Jun. 20 Two-Light Tour of Virginia Beach – see June Dipstick for details**
- Jun. 24-28 MG2009, [www.mg2009.com](http://www.mg2009.com)
- Jul. 1 Wednesday meeting at Bill & Renee Olcheski’s**
- Jul. 13-17, NAMGAR GT-34, Hot Springs, AR,  
[www.mgcars.org.uk/namgar](http://www.mgcars.org.uk/namgar)
- Aug. 4 Tuesday meeting at Tad & Karen Carter’s**
- Aug. 8 Classics at Lee Hall, [www.leehall.org](http://www.leehall.org)
- Aug. 23 Tech Session at Jim & Linda Freeh’s**
- Sept. 2 Wednesday meeting - Open**
- Sept. 13 Horsepower Show, Colonial Downs,  
[www.horsepowershows.com](http://www.horsepowershows.com)

## Upcoming Activities (continued)

- Sept. 20 Classics on the James, Richmond  
[www.britishcarclub.com](http://www.britishcarclub.com)
- Sept. 26 TRAACA Antique Car Show at Virginia Beach Airport  
[www.aaca.org/tidewater](http://www.aaca.org/tidewater)
- Sept. 26 Wings and Wheels, Topping VA  
[www.fly.to/wingsandwheels](http://www.fly.to/wingsandwheels)
- Sept. 26 MGs on the Rocks, Bel Air, MD,  
[www.mgsofbaltimore.com](http://www.mgsofbaltimore.com)
- Oct. 2-4 SVBCC Car Show, Waynesboro, VA  
[www.svbcc.net](http://www.svbcc.net)
- Oct. 6 Tuesday meeting at Chuck & Becky Hassler's**
- Oct. 10 Brits by the Bay, Pasadena, MD, [www.tracltd.org](http://www.tracltd.org)
- Oct. 11 Hunt Country Classic, Middleburg, VA,  
[www.mgcarclubdc.com](http://www.mgcarclubdc.com)
- Oct. 17 Euro Auto Festival at BMW plant, Spartanburg NC,  
[www.euroautofestival.com](http://www.euroautofestival.com)
- Oct. 23-25 Virginia Fall Classic, Newport News,  
[www.vafallclassic.org](http://www.vafallclassic.org)
- Oct. 31 Brits and Battleship, Wilmington NC,  
[www.bmccf.org](http://www.bmccf.org)
- Oct. 31 – Nov 1 Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance



## MAY MINUTES

Michele Peters

We began our May meeting at 8:18 PM on May 6 at Jim and Betty Villers' lovely waterfront Virginia Beach home, in the midst of a tornado watch. Even with the threat of possible catastrophe, there was an impressive turn-out of members and LBCs. Now, I am not sure if that was due mainly to Betty's cooking, the Villers home's ambience, the pleasant air, or the threat of tornado. With this crazy crowd, it is perfectly reasonable to wonder whether the thrill-seekers among us were out in force! Nevertheless, no matter what brought the large TMGC crowd, it was raucous and animated. One of the reasons the meeting started on the late side was the difficulty trying to corral all those crazy folks! But El Presidente was in fine form (although we were missing Kathy), and he eventually

got the reins on that wild horse (and no, a tornado never materialized, except maybe *inside!*).

Of course, and as usual, the minutes from April were enthusiastically and unanimously approved...and rightly so! Thank you, adoring fans, for your support!

**New Members and Guests:** No new members who admitted it. We did have one guest: Bill Y's nephew MSgt Tom Yoshida, USMC, all the way from Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. There is a connection, besides the familial – he owns a 1977 MG Midget. I believe it was Mark who mentioned that we DO have the “One Meeting Dues Plan” to Tom, but that didn't seem to go anywhere...

**Vice-President:** Bill O noted that, although our membership might indeed be motivated and enthusiastic, they were, perchance, a little on the not-so-smart side, since we were happily (and unfathomably) holding our meeting during a tornado watch in a glass-enclosed porch.

**Treasurer:** Jim V. reported that we are still in the pink, not the red.

**Activities:** Please see Tad's Activities section for a complete run-down. Be thinking about hosting the September meeting as well as an Ice Cream Run this summer. Just remember: We are a Meeting, Fixing, Driving, & Drinking Club, so act accordingly! If you plan to attend Richard Hall's 52-mile two-light drive out on June 20 at 4 PM, make sure to let Tad know as soon as possible, as he needs a head count for the dinner at 6:30 PM.

**Clubs:** Mike and Jennifer were absent, and we missed them.

**History:** Susan responded, “Yeah!” to the request for a report on our history. She also mentioned that, although she forgot to bring everything, she has CDs from the wine tour...at least, she has them in her thoughts...and she is thinking very hard about actually making one to share.

**Newsletter:** Ron Struewing asked for volunteers to write articles for *The Dipstick*. He also asks that those who do write please submit their articles as soon as they can; articles and pictures to be submitted no later than the 12<sup>th</sup> of every month.

**Membership:** Bill reports that we now have... drumroll, please!...103 embers – I mean members! Yeah! We hit and *surpassed* the 100-member mark! Yeah! Wuhu! Yipee! Way to Go! Yea! Super!...Hmmm...Uhm...Bill? Uh, by the way, what's the big deal about the 100-member mark, anyway? Does it have some historical significance? Is it a personal best? Do ya just like the number 100? Does having 100 members mean we can double our dues? Just wondering....Anyway, Bill did want everyone to know that June is....da dum, dad dum, da dum, da dum (that's the dad dum dad dum sung to the tune of the cellos' solo in the JAWS movie when the shark was

about to appear and chow on somebody's leg): MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH...forms will be on the web site and also in hard copy, so "Chuze yer piezun!"

**Technical:** Mark was absent, but Jim V. substituted well with his "Tale of the Wayward Fuel Pump as It Relates to Chaos Theory." Let me explain.

As everyone is well aware, when driving long distances in an LBC (well, truth be told, even short distances for that matter), it is useful to carry spare parts of all sorts. If you are particularly prescient, like Jim, you actually carry multiples of your spare parts. He held up a small golden item with tubes running in and out, and stated, "Some of you may not recognize this..." to which Robert retorted, "All those people who were working under your hood that day recognize it!"

Not long after the start of the drive for our 2009 Wine Tour, Jim & Betty's MG came to a complete unceremonious stop. Jim managed to get the car running again in no time, and we were on our way. Not too long after that, the car died again. This time, the problem was quickly diagnosed by Jim and his posse (Bernie, Robert, and Donald) as a defective fuel pump and thankfully, he carried a spare. He installed the replacement pump quickly, but the smoking, melting wires, and Bernie's yips of pain as he held the melting wires, convinced them all that the spare fuel pump had a short in it. Luckily, Jim had *another* spare fuel pump. (Unfortunately, on the way home from the wine tour, he encountered vapor lock, but that's really another story [See "The 2009 Wine & Gravel Tasting Tour" or "The 2009 Road Better Left Less-traveled" in this edition]). On the other hand, Susan mentioned that she has used her spare fuel pump for ten years now, without further incident. Well, there's just no telling with those LBCs...

Also of technical interest is another Wine Tour incident that suggests that you may not need a starter for your LBC, as long as you have a "Linda." Let me explain.

Bob & Linda Pellerin's starter (I should say their *MG's* starter) broke down relatively early in the wine tour. Thereafter, they were obliged to park only on down slopes in order to get the engine to go. Linda turned out to be a great starter substitute: Just attach Linda securely to the rear of the vehicle, sit back, relax and watch her go! (at least, that's what *Bob* says...)

**Old Business:** Vince

**New Business:** None

**Marque Time:** Stephen D remarked that it really IS possible to have electrical problems that do not involve anything by the name of Lucas. Corrosion can occur under the negative terminal of the battery even when disconnected. Just be aware.

The Williamsburg show brought our club some trophies: Cynthia, Vince, Stephen, Craig, Darryl, and Frank. Good going, guys! (Wow, did anyone besides me notice my alliteration?)

Harry is selling his beautiful 1973 GT. It has 5,000 miles on a rebuilt engine. Robert, who borrowed it for the Wine Tour, noted that the engine oil was so clear when he checked it, he momentarily panicked, thinking it had completely run out of oil. When someone asked if there were any other cars for sale, Andy asked if there was anyone interested in wives....I TOLD you I would report this, Andy. Remember, Cynthia, I'm just the messenger....

**Raffle and Regalia:** The starter-substitute...I mean Linda, won lemon grass from Betty's garden; and someone (Mike H?) won some Greek basil (I didn't get this down in my notes because there was so much laughter and uproar over the "Normally sells for \$50/ounce and comes with a black light" comment - hey who said that, anyway?); Jim's mystery gift ( I won't even state what the guesses were as to the function of the mystery gift, but I'll give you a clue...think about the mentality of most of our *members*...there is a clue in that clue...) which turned out to be a belt buckle protector (or more accurately, something that would protect things *from* a belt buckle); MG magazines; refrigerator magnet; and first-in-line. All-in-all, a very fun evening, adjourned at 9:08 PM with nary a thought of lawsuits in our heads.



## Officers and Committees

President	Mark Davidoski	499-4647
Vice President	Bill Olcheski	467-4046
Secretary	Michele Peters	482-1012
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editors	Peggy Craig	226-7755
	Ronald Struewing	479-0084
Membership	Bill Yoshida	554-0402
Activities	Tad Carter	496-9847
Historian	Susan Bond	482-5222
Technical	Mark Childers	432-9155
Regalia	Becky Hassler	874-1477
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307
Webmaster	Mike Haag	<a href="mailto:mikehmg@cox.net">mikehmg@cox.net</a>

## Membership and New Members

Bill Yoshida

The membership currently stands at 103.  
The newest members are:

James & Iboyla Bettis  
Two (2) - 1980 MGBs.  
Virginia Beach, VA

Dave & Angela Bettis  
1975 Midget  
Norfolk, VA

June is Membership Renewal month. Annual renewal forms are found online at [www.mg.org](http://www.mg.org) under the "Becoming a Member" section. A copy of the form is included in this Newsletter. A fee of \$20.00 for the upcoming year's membership is due in June for members who joined the club in January or later and chose the \$10.00 fee (1/2 year fee). Members that recently joined and paid a full year's dues of \$20.00 are good through June 2010. I will contact all members by email or phone who are currently paid up through June 2010 to let them know that their dues are already paid. I look forward to all current members renewing their membership for the 2010 year.

I intend to begin building the Tidewater MG Classics 2010 Directory upon closure of the registration period on 30 June. If you have a new photo that you would like to be included in this year's directory, please e-mail it to me at: [williamryoshida@verizon.net](mailto:williamryoshida@verizon.net). I will do my best to include it. No promises.

I hope to see you at the 2 June meeting at our home. We will be parking MGs in the yard behind our house if the ground hasn't been saturated by recent rain. Just drive on down the long driveway and we'll find you a space to park.

P.S. The pool is open for anyone who brings a bathing suit and a towel...or at least a towel.

Safety Fast,



## Activities

Tad Carter

May 30 – June 7 – British Car Week – drive with pride!

June 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting at the Yoshida's in Virginia Beach – Bill has promised that the pool water will be just right for anyone wanting to take a quick dip.

### Summer Driving Days –

**Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> – 4:00PM – 6:00PM – Two-Light Tour of Virginia Beach** (followed by dinner)

Getting back to our car-club roots, Richard Hall has put together a great drive through southern Virginia Beach. This is a 52-mile tour that will take us down many back roads, through farm country, by horse stables and around some of the remaining undeveloped swampland of Virginia Beach. Driving time is right at 110 minutes, including a short comfort-break at a park along the Inter-coastal Waterway, ending at one of the fine dining establishments in beautiful downtown Pungo. Please join us as TMGC takes you through the open spaces of Virginia Beach.

In order to assure adequate space in the restaurant (either Pungo Pizza or Seacrest Restaurant), please let me know if you will be joining us for the Tour: [TMGC\\_Activities@me.com](mailto:TMGC_Activities@me.com)

In addition, I am working on arrangements for a weekend drive-out to visit Trophy Park and the Tar House at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in July or August. Trophy Park includes a display of naval weaponry and artifacts from the Shipyard's 230-year history. In the tradition of Beckey Watson, all good tours must include an octagonal building. For this tour, we will be visiting the Tar House. Built in 1834, it is one of the oldest buildings at the Shipyard. Due to access limitations, details are currently not available. Please stay tuned for an update at the June meeting or in The Dipstick.

### **MEETING ALERT**

**September 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting –** The last meeting of summer has become available due to a scheduling conflict with the original hosts. Please contact me if you are able to host this Wednesday evening event.



# “The Tidewater MG Club’s 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Winery Tour” or “The 2009 Wine & Gravel Tasting Tour” or “The 2009 Road Better Left Less Traveled Wine Tour”

by Michele Peters  
Photos by Jim & Betty Villers

[Author’s note: I have related the events of this Wine Tour the best that I could recollect, reviewing my nearly illegible notes, as well as emails and the Tour Book that Beckey created. If I have gotten anything wrong, please forgive me since I was very busy enjoying myself!]

For the seventh consecutive year, Alan & Beckey Watson created a wonderful, fun, interesting, and alcohol-sotted weekend in the central Virginia countryside for our members, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Specifically, twenty-three of our members had the time of their lives touring Nelson County, Virginia and its surrounds in their LBCs, while visiting six vineyards, dining on delightful gourmet delights, and cruising some of the longest and windingest (and gravelliest) back roads in Virginia.

The folks who were able to take advantage of this fantastic experience included Alan & Beckey Watson, the creative developers and organizers, Bernie Imdahl & Nancy, Jim & Betty Villers, Tom & Marie Early, Barb Taychert & Mike Knepler, Russ Ripp, Robert Perrone & yours truly, Mike & Denise Haag, Susan & Terry Bond, Cynthia Faschini & Andy Wallach, Bob & Missy McKenna, Donald Ladd, and Bob & Linda Pellerin, as well as thirteen LBCs; four of which have been on every Tour and one which was graciously loaned for the occasion by Harry Watson (thanks Harry!).

Friday morning, April 24, dawned bright and delightful. All of us except Alan & Beckey, Bob & Missy, and Bernie & Nancy, started off at about 9am at the Lake Wright parking lot in Virginia Beach. In the



tradition of the LBC and of the T M G C wine tours, Jim & Betty promptly broke down on I-64 near

I-95 (Breakdown #1). Jim was able to get the car running in less than five minutes, without explanation, and we were on our way again, tops down.

We drove up I-64 to Rte 199 to Lightfoot, where we met up with Russ and Bob & Missy at the IHOP and all continued on to Ashland for lunch at “Homemades by Suzanne” with the full complement of Tour-ists at about 11:15am. Delicious, as always.



Turning out of the parking lot, Jim & Betty’s car conked out again

(Breakdown #2) but it did not deter our progress at all. Somewhere north of Ashland, however, Jim’s car broke down again (Breakdown #3), and this time, we all



pulled over so that Jim and posse could assess the problem (See the Technical section of the Minutes of this edition) and hopefully put an end to the problem. It was determined that the car was suffering from a bad fuel pump; luckily Jim had TWO spare pumps, as the first one shorted out and burned Bernie’s fingers! The



repair gave the rest of us time to admire the beautiful scenery. Beckey & Alan, having been a good distance ahead when Jim broke down, had continued on, blissfully unaware that the rest of us had pulled off to wait for Jim's repairs. They were clued in, however, when Beckey noticed that she had 8 missed calls on her cell phone in a matter of two minutes.

At about 2pm on Rte 6, and still only half way to the first vineyard, Bob & Linda's car began to smoke (Breakdown #4). The problem was diagnosed as a frozen starter, so Bernie, Andy, Jim, Donald, Robert & Mike push-started the car and we were away again about 2:12pm. That was the only time they didn't use their "Linda" as a substitute starter, and thereafter always parked on a down angle to facilitate the use of the "Linda" as the starter. (That "Linda" worked very well indeed as a starter substitute, by the way, for any of you interested in obtaining spare starters).

After traveling a very long and fun winding road, we arrived at the Lovingson Winery, a small, production-only serious quality-control winery with four employees and a production of only about 1,200 cases/year. Stephanie, the Assistant Winemaker explained the intricacies of winemaking and the benefits of dense-growth vines to us while we sampled their excellent fare. After making our purchases, we were off to the Bed & Breakfast establishments where we were staying: The Mark Addy Inn and The Meander Inn in Nellysford.



We met up at The Mark Addy Inn for a gourmet 4 course dinner with wine that was simply mouth-watering - c'etait tres delieieux!- and then retired to

our respective rooms for a comfortable sleep.

Saturday morning was warm, mostly cloudy, with a gentle breeze blowing in from the nearby mountains. We rose early and had coffee on the porch at about 7:30. Our breakfast at The Mark Addy at 9am included a homemade broccoli & cheese quiche, oatmeal with apples



and blueberries, sweet sauces, as well as blueberry muffins or croissants.



Mmmmm good! Then, it was off to our first wine tasting of the day. On the drive our eyes feasted on trees and plants in Spring bloom, including pink and white cherry trees, maples, oaks, willows, ash, pink and red azaleas, Queen Anne's lace, yellow mustard, purple phlox, and all manner of other colorful wildflowers. We passed "Crabtree Falls Hwy" and "Cow Hollow Road" on the way to Rte. 29 (Seminole Trail).



Mountain Cove Vineyards in Lovingson is the oldest vineyard in Virginia, operating since 1973 (why, oh why, doesn't that sound like a long time ago!?) There was no tour, but rather a simple wine tasting offered on picnic tables.

Next stop was lunch at the Blue Moon Brewery, a microbrewery in Afton. A significant wait (due to the significant crowd) produced excellent food and even better beer. The Sampler of 6 of their own brews was delightful, until one hit the "Dark Hollow"



offering. No one could stomach it, except Russ, who insisted on downing everyone else's Dark Hollow sample (I think, truth be told, just to be contrary...there is *no way* he could have actually *liked* it). According to the brewmaster, the Dark Hollow, made with bourbon, was very similar to the beer that Katherine the Great sucked down in great quantities. Hey, look what it did for her. Well, Russ, you go for it!

Next stop was Cardinal Point Winery in Afton. We sampled six different wines, I think the most expensive so far. By this time, it was very hot outside, and that wine tasted particularly good, especially the chilled whites.



Then off we were to the DelFosse Winery in



Faber, over a very long and very dusty, disagreeably gravelly road, curiously named "Old Robert's Road". We were to have a wine and food pairing dinner there, and by the time we finally arrived, everyone's car, inside and out, including the engine compartments, and every person, was covered in dust and grit. This is why the alternate titles for the Wine Tour article were suggested. We all secretly glared at Robert, but really, I don't think he was to blame. The four-course dinner with three different wines, served on the deck of a log cabin on a hill overlooking a picturesque pond, was therefore very welcomed.

The meal, which ended about 7:30pm, was very good and very fill-



ing. Andy was feeling pretty frisky at this point, and made comments concerning "loose nuts," which did not refer to wheels, as well as to the vast quantities of food that some of us were consuming even as we went back for more. I'm not ashamed to admit that I am really part lemming, and am therefore required to eat every couple of hours or commit suicide by running into the nearest body of water. After all, nobody was interested in seeing me float around in the little pond. Therefore, I had no choice but to continue to eat and eat and eat...

In - stead of tackling Old Robert's Road again, we all took the long way back to The Mark Addy Inn for after-dinner socializing,



and even more sharing of food and wine on the veranda until 10pm, when we retired to our rooms after a long but happy food- and wine-filled day.

On Sunday, the last day of our Tour, we had another wonderful breakfast at The Mark Addy, and left about

10:30am for a short drive to the Nelson County Edible Landscaping nursery in Afton. There, we perused a green house full of all sorts of plants which, as the name implied, were edible. Betty, the master gardener, was in second heaven. Several of us made purchases, in pursuit of our green thumb (and more food!).



We were on our way, under a cool blue sky and gentle breeze, to lunch when we passed the Flying Fox Winery. It wasn't on our itinerary, but, really, one couldn't expect *this crowd* to pass a winery and not stop! So we did, and tasted and bought even more wine, which was really quite good.

That's one of those things that's great about this group - spontaneity is definitely alive and well, and that's all good.



# The Albuquerque MG Experience

by Chuck Hassler

The stay in Albuquerque has been a wonderful MG experience. Craig and Joyce Cummings, who had lived in Albuquerque, recommended we join the local car club where they were members for years, the *British Automobile Owners Association (BAOA)* <http://www.nmia.com/~bsavage/baoa/>. That sounded like a good idea, so I planned to attend the next monthly meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Since we would be representing TMGC and WBCC while in NM, it was important to start off with a good impression. Not the new club's first impression of we humans (lost cause), but rather the first impression of the MGB LE. Only a good cleaning and polishing would get this done. The day of the meeting, the MGB took me to the Cibola National Forest <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/> for cool air and shade in the pine trees, a beautiful area for the work. While working on the MG, I remembered that some Girling brake fluid had leaked from the can and into the trunk. So, I emptied the trunk to remove the fluid and was amazed at how much "stuff" came out of the trunk. These little cars are amazing! Once the work was done and the trunk reloaded, I headed for the meeting in a clean and polished MGB satisfied that no embarrassment would occur.

The membership welcomed Becky and me as new members at their monthly meeting. The meeting was held at the Owl Café, a nice



Car cleaning in the Cibola National Forest

1950's era café with a jukebox at every table. The café originated in San Antonio, NM and is credited with the 1944 invention of a burger with green chili and cheese. The business moved 150 miles north to Albuquerque a few decades ago, and is now the summer venue for the club's meetings.

The club meeting was a great social event. The café dedicated the parking lot at the front door to our British cars, and reserved the outdoor covered veranda for the



At the Owl Cafe

We stopped for lunch at Dr. Ho's Humble Pie in North Garden. Beckey had let us know it was a pizzeria, so we were mostly neutral about our next stop – until we actually ate their pizzas, that is. Wow! They had the most unusual and definitely the best pizza I have ever had, and I think everyone enjoyed their pizzas immensely. What a find, Beckey! Too bad Dr. Ho's isn't in Tidewater!



Our last stop of this year's Tour was a repeat performance for our club. Back in 2004, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual wine tour, the club stopped at rocker Dave Matthews' Blenheim Vineyards in Charlottesville. At that time, it was not open to the public. The tasting took place in a chalet-like building built to Dave's specifications; a very interesting place, indeed – and the wine was good, too. [PIC 149] As an added bonus, we were delighted to see Robin, who joined us for the tasting.



At last, that time had come, when our wine time together must end for another year. There were hugs, handshakes, and laughter all around. Departing separately and in small groups for home, we took away with us more digital pictures, many bottles of wine, plenty of Virginia countryside dust, and the most pleasant of memories to keep for ourselves and to share. Number seven shall go down in history, like the six before it, as an absolutely unmitigated success. Kudos to Alan & Beckey, once again, for creating the best wine tour ever!





meeting. The agenda was to kick tires, have dinner, conduct the meeting, and kick tires again. What actually happened was kick tires, have dinner, **replace the meeting with high calorie deserts**, and kick tires for another hour. I can live with that! The club's webmaster has added the TMGC and WBCC links to their website. The membership encouraged all of us to bring our little British Cars to a major car show the following Sunday.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Albuquerque Museum & New Mexico Council of Car Clubs Automobile Show was held on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. It was a "chamber of commerce" sunny day with a temperature around 80 degrees, no humidity, and light winds. The Albuquerque Fine Art and History Museum provided their parking lot for the show <http://www.cabq.gov/museum/>. The Museum is located in Old Town Albuquerque <http://www.albuquerqueoldtown.com/> with its historical buildings, fine shops, and excellent dining, so there was a lot to do and see during the six-hour car show.

The parking lot and all side streets were filled with hundreds of antique cars by 10am. The Model T Ford was the honored marquee, celebrating 100 years of the Model T.



One of the many Model T Fords at the show

The BAOA members brought an XKE Jaguar, MGA, MG Midget, a replica MGC GT Sebring racer, our MGB LE, and other cars to the show.

The Midget was an extraordinary car. The owner, Jack Bartberger, had read an article in *Popular Mechanics* on how to paint a car with Rustoleum. He thought that this sounded like a good idea, so he removed and prepped



Our MGB LE with a great parking spot

all of the body panels from the Midget and applied eight thin coats of Rustoleum royal blue paint with a small detail roller. He then let the panels dry in the New Mexico sun for hours between coats. The result was exceptional. It looked like any other automotive paint job to me. He said that this paint job cost him less than \$150, and touchup jobs were a snap.

This is the last MGB adventure trip report from Albuquerque. The MGB, truck, and travel trailer move from Albuquerque to



Angel Fire, NM Midget painted with Rustoleum on June 1st.

Then, the MG will travel from Angel Fire to Breckenridge, CO on June 23<sup>rd</sup> for MG 2009. Other MGB adventures will follow the MG 2009 trip, and I hope to report on them all.

Hope all of you are having a wonderful Virginia Spring!



## VICTORY LANE

by Geoff Wheatley  
August 2008

Well, I guess it had to happen. For the man or woman that has everything, there will soon be a private development where - wait for it - you can build your multi-million dollar home and at the same time have your own motor racetrack. So, when you are feeling a little tense, simply get out your private speed toy and drive over to the track for a few laps. This concept is endorsed by none other than Phil Hill, the 1961 Formula One World Driver's Champion with Ferrari. The name of this motor sports paradise is "Victory Lane." To quote Mr. Hill, "Our team has created what I believe to be the ultimate lifestyle development for motor sport enthusiasts and their families. The 3,000-acre complex in Georgia is designed for 120 families and their guests. There is a private runway, an 18-hole golf course, an equestrian facility, and a clubhouse on a 40-acre fishing lake. But the real treasure is the Motor

Sports Complex. Victory Lane has built a track that will offer an enduring challenge to any driver. The 4.5 mile course presents both the journeyman driver and the skilled professional endless hours of training and fun.”

If you want to be alone yet part of the activity you have the choice of ten- to thirty-acre lots to build your dream home. If that’s a touch too much grass to cut, try the next offer of between three to ten acres. If you like the idea of a river home try one of the twenty-five lots nestled along 3.5 miles of water frontage from three to six acres in size. As to be expected, “Gasoline Alley” is adjacent to the racetrack where hanger lots are available that can be used as a showcase for your automobile collection. (That’s a nice touch if the wife is giving you a hard time about garage space or whose car should be left outside!)

If you are concerned about security, and who would not be in such surroundings, there is a ten-foot fence around the entire 3,000 acres. In addition, the private airport is centrally located adjacent to the Motor Sports Complex. I guess you can get a quick oil change for the private jet while watching your neighbors try their skill on the track on the weekends. If Motocross is your baby, there is a designed course to fit your needs and various ATV trails.

OK, now that I have your attention, I know the next question must be: “How much?” Well, the least-expensive lot is a mere \$675,000. As for the others, it all depends on where you want to live and what size house you feel you need. The top-of-the-line home with the right size lot and over 10,735sf of living space is priced at twenty million. What I assume to be the other end of the scale with only 3,948sf, again including the lot, is priced at just under two million dollars. I could not find any expected fee for the services at “Victory Lane,” or what it would cost for an owner to take the Mini down to the track for a quick spin and burn some rubber. I assume that the use of the 20,000sf clubhouse on the lake and adjacent to the 18-hole golf course is extra, especially if you want to knock a few balls around before lunch. The one missing feature is a skiing area with man-made snow but I guess even millionaires can’t have everything, or can they? Well, if you feel like a down-hill romp on a pair of skis, simply get out the private jet that is stored at the private airport and take off to distant places with the sure knowledge that you can be back in time for dinner in the clubhouse that evening.

After all is said and done, all we are talking about is money and you can’t take it with you when you leave although some I know will certainly try!



## Two-Light Tour of Virginia Beach & Chesapeake

Saturday, June 20th

4:00 - 6:15 PM



Getting back to our car-club roots, Richard Hall has put together a great drive through southern Va Beach and Chesapeake. Can you imagine a 52-mile tour taking us down many back roads, through farm country, by horse stables and around some of the remaining undeveloped swampland of Va Beach and encountering only 2 traffic lights? Driving time is 110 minutes, including a short comfort break at a park along the Inter-coastal Waterway, ending at the Seacrest Restaurant in Pungo for dinner at about 6:15pm. (1776 Princess Anne Rd)

You must RSVP to Richard Hall (482-2821) or Tad carter (496-9847) by Wednesday, June 17th so we can inform the restaurant how many will attend.

**Location:** Meet at Harris Teeter parking lot at 2476 Nimmo Pkwy by the VB city offices.

We'll head south on Nimmo to North Landing and into Fentress Airfield. From there, we pick up a number of small roads, cross briefly into Chesapeake, and then back to VB. Our midway stop will be at Munden Point Park—probably 70 minutes into the drive.

TMGC ANNUAL RENEWAL

Please fill out the form below and return it to Bill Yoshida with a check made out to TMGC for \$20.00 and mail to:

TMGC  
c/o Bill Yoshida  
4732 Little John Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA. 23455

williamryoshida@verizon.net (757) 554-0402 or Cell (757) 876-3826

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Name's \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have your permission to publish your home phone and e-mail address in a member's directory for club use only? \_\_\_\_\_

MG's owned?

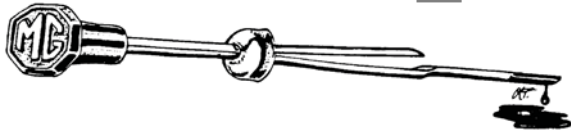
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Are you affiliated with any other National Car Club? If yes please list

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*"Save an Octagon"*

# The Dipstick



## The Tidewater MG Classics

Ronald Struewing (editor)  
5483 Doon St.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7732

Affiliated with



## FIRST CLASS

7:30 - Kick Tyres  
8:00 - Meeting

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 2nd**  
Bill & Issie Yoshida  
4732 Little John Rd  
Virginia Beach  
554-0402